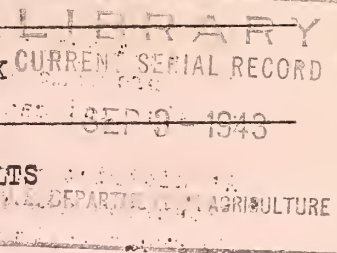


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WARTIME EXTENSION WORK



SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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This week's reports throw the spotlight on farm labor developments; fall Victory Gardens for the home food supply; widespread and varied contribution of 4-H Club members toward wartime food production.

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KANSAS

August 12, 1943

Farm labor.- During July harvest season for small grains and potatoes, more labor was available when needed than last year. This was result of extensive preliminary campaign for local labor recruitment. Local businessmen, many women, and hundreds of boys volunteered for wheat harvest. In many communities evening crews of businessmen were organized to help. Chairman of one chamber of commerce agricultural committee said program accomplished more on good "rural relations" than anything they had ever done.

Plan for using war prisoners on farm jobs being worked out for broomcorn area and for silo filling. Camp completed for 100 Italian prisoners for harvesting potatoes.

Extension agricultural engineer arranged two job-instruction training institutes at which 14 received 32-hour training course.

Livestock.- Program for grub control being continued and intensified to increase meat, milk, and leather production for wartime needs. Program began in 1940, when about 62 percent of hides of animals slaughtered at Kansas City were found to have 5 or more grub holes. Average loss on each grub-infested animal was \$3.56. Number of grub-infested animals in Kansas in average year is estimated at 2,604,000, amounting to loss of \$9,270,240. During past year 116,000 head were treated at saving of \$412,960.

Series of livestock-marketing meetings held to emphasize wartime importance of increased production, and to explain effect of rationing, price ceilings, and other restrictions. County livestock transportation committees organized.

Summary No. 66

AUGUST 28, 1943

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4-H Club activities.- 4-H summer camps had larger attendance than in past. Camp programs laid stress on safety and on making the best of what we have by raising and canning needed food and mending and conserving clothes.

At district summer conferences special sessions were held for 4-H leaders and extension agents to discuss problems and plans in county 4-H programs. Conferences emphasized food production and preservation.

Much time being given to building 4-H Club programs for 1944 in counties all over State. Leading theme is "Feed a Fighter" by raising more gardens, beef, pork, and poultry.

Representatives sent to interstate conference of 4-H leaders at Des Moines. Program devoted to 4-H role in wartime emergency and plans for even greater contribution to national war program in 1944.

Agricultural planning.- Unified agricultural programs to meet impacts of war set up for nine counties. Maximum-production study for State prepared in co-operation with experiment station and Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Study attempts to show what Kansas can do in agricultural production of preferred war commodities on sustained basis over period of years.

MISSOURI

August 1, 1943

Farm labor: - During July, Missouri's county extension offices made 12,710 placements in emergency farm-labor program. Total included 865 year-round workers, 8,835 seasonal men workers, 7 seasonal women workers, and 2,999 seasonal youth workers. State office transported 57 family workers and 36 single workers from south Missouri to counties in northern part of State to help with heavier food production programs. Demand for year-round workers continued heavy, still exceeding supply.

Experimental transportation of short-time workers was tried successfully in moving of 17 men from Butler County to counties farther north, with understanding that they will return to their own county for cotton picking. Test is expected to provide helpful experience for future recruitment of short-time labor. Sample recruitment campaign started in Ripley county to obtain cotton pickers for nearby area. Campaign being carried forward rapidly with purpose of using experience in other counties bordering cotton belt.

Emergency farm-labor situation was met in Henry County by recruiting workers from local sources. Full-time hands were placed on practically all farms reported as needing them. More than 300 town men and youths, working after business hours, shocked 10,000 acres of grain. At peak of harvest many stores in county seat closed during business hours, and on 1 day 125 men from town worked in harvest fields practically all day. Mayors of several towns in county appointed farm-labor committees. County extension office wrote hundreds of letters and made two complete surveys of county.

In Crawford County last month some 60 men, women, boys, and girls from towns helped shock and thresh grain, put up hay, pick berries, and kill weeds--in fact did any task assigned to them in food-production program. Farmers were amazed at amount of work done by these volunteers.

Home food supply.- To encourage widest possible planting of vegetables in latter part of gardening season, State Victory Garden Council held special session. Council strongly urged that gardeners continue to plant appropriate garden crops, and approved intensive work by all agencies and organizations in campaign for following objectives: (1) Every Missouri family to redouble its efforts to produce its food supply by continued plantings of vegetables for fall and winter use. (2) Every family to utilize canning, drying, and brining in preservation of its winter food supply. (3) Storage to be utilized wherever possible instead of more difficult or less effective methods of preservation. (4) Continuation and expansion of facilities for exchange and distribution of fruits and vegetables

During last 2 weeks of July State-wide campaign for fall gardening, food preservation, and storage was started. Twin slogans of campaign are: "Keep on planting vegetables" and "Let no food go to waste." Campaign opened with district conferences of county and home demonstration agents featuring exhibits, discussions, and demonstrations. Among procedures shown were building and remodeling of storage structures, building and handling of slatted crates, storage for canned foods, use of storage pits, canning, brining, and drying. Canning aides are serving their neighborhoods, and information is being given to people in many other ways, including demonstrations, exhibits, newspaper stories, canning schools, radio talks, and films.

Poultry.- Year has been marked by widespread improvement of poultry housing and equipment on Missouri farms. In Holt County 347 brooder houses have been built by lumber dealers and sold to farmers in last 6 months. In Henry County 400 brooder houses and 40 summer range shelters have been built. In other counties, in smaller numbers but making an immense total, brooder houses, range shelters, range feeders and waterers have been built in all parts of State. In July, 17 county demonstrations of range shelter construction were given, and as part of feed conservation program 11 demonstrations on fowl pox vaccination. Series of 6 illustrated franked post cards, urging feed conservation through culling, vaccination, and correct feeding, was sent to 290,000 poultry producers in 62 counties. Cards were printed by Extension and financed by county extension boards. Agents also supplied with news stories for local papers to supplement direct-mail campaign.

4-H Club work.- In Henry County, where much work on egg improvement and quality egg marketing has been done in recent years, 4-H Club Victory egg show was held, and 82 club members exhibited eggs and took part in demonstration and judging contests. Hatcherymen of county gave \$90 in prizes to winning contestants.

Large contribution made toward wartime food production in Gasconade County, where 373 boys and girls have wartime 4-H projects and 168 women and girls are working as canning aides.

Dairy production.- Increase of 24 1/2 percent in average butterfat production of all cows in Southwest Missouri Dairy Herd Improvement Association in past 13 years was reported at recent annual meeting of the group. Average was raised in that period from 270 to 336 pounds per cow - gain of 66 pounds. Now 93 cows in association herds produce more than 400 pounds of fat each, whereas no cows in association had reached that mark in 1929-30. Much of progress attributed to use of better bulls and improved pastures.

Neighborhood leaders.-- In Polk County, neighborhood leaders in 105 school districts--all but two of total number--sold \$205,000 worth of war bonds to 1,728 persons in 2-week campaign this spring. County committee, including extension agent, held 20 preliminary meetings to explain to leaders and public the procedures to be used. Drive was pushed rapidly by 241 leaders, and county's quota was exceeded by more than 20 percent. An outstanding feature of campaign was large number of small bonds purchased, many by persons who had not previously bought war bonds. More recently Polk County's neighborhood leaders handled drive for Red Cross funds, in which county quota was exceeded by 67 percent.

Farm Forestry.-- Cooperative timber production war projects program set up tentatively by districts, headed by State forester of Missouri Conservation Commission. Existing farm forestry projects will be utilized, and U. S. Forest Service will furnish some men. Cooperating agencies are Extension Service, Conservation Commission, WPB, FS, and SCS. Program will be assisted by timber-marketing committee representing all these agencies and also Missouri Farm Bureau Federation, Missouri Farmers' Association, and wood-using industries of State.

OREGON

August 1, 1943

Farm labor.-- Organization of State office completed. In addition to emergency farm labor supervisor, central labor staff consists of assistant supervisor, specialist transferred from regular staff to act as leader in recruitment of women, and assistant supervisor to head recruitment of youth. In counties, organization completed and large volume of placements made. In 26 counties, farm labor assistants employed to assist agents in entire field of labor; in 5 counties, women employed to aid organization for utilizing women's services. Labor needs do not reach peak until August, but there was continuously increasing demand during July and several spots of high labor requirement. All needs were fulfilled; little crop loss experienced because of labor shortage.

Three methods of meeting labor needs have proved successful: (1) Distribution of 2,500 Mexican nationals to meet peak loads in several counties, (2) organization of young people of school age into platoons for such seasonal needs as berry and cherry harvests, (3) local organization to utilize part-time services of townspeople for hay operations.

Many women's groups were organized and are ready for impending peaks. Cooperation of all agencies concerned continues excellent. Press very helpful in giving appropriate publicity. In several counties business and civic groups cooperated in carrying full-page and part-page advertisements calling attention to current labor needs. In a few counties, labor available exceeded needs.

Victory Gardens.-- Campaign of early spring showed substantial results in July. Staff members estimate 50,000 gardens on farms and 150,000 more in towns and cities. This number, greater than ever before, is due largely to work of neighborhood leader organization in **rural districts** and to campaign to provide information and assistance organized earlier in year. Season favorable for gardens, and large supplies of home-grown vegetables aided food situation. During July publicity was distributed on varieties and time of planting for fall and early winter garden crops.

4-H Club work.- Gardens received more attention from 4-H Club leaders during July than any other single project. Owing to war needs, gardens have shown marked increase during year. In nearly every county, club leaders gave seasonal assistance to garden projects and in many instances held tours and field demonstration meetings. In Klamath County they inspected 880 gardens. In Linn County, inspection was assisted by a college horticulturist who scored 50 of best gardens preparatory to final judging in county gardening contest.

In several counties 4-H Club leaders were active in organizing young people for emergency farm work in cooperation with State farm labor supervisor.

4-H Club work given impetus in Yamhill County by employment of a county club agent.

Salvage.- Reports on activity of neighborhood leader groups in salvage campaigns show total of 120,000 tons of scrap metal collected in 1942. In scrap-rubber campaign, 10,225 tons was collected, average of 18.75 pounds a person, to put Oregon in first place among States. In first 6 months of 1943, 53 carloads of tin cans were assembled and about 650,000,000 pounds of waste kitchen fats collected. All this work was assisted by neighborhood leader groups who often enlisted cooperation of community and civic organizations.

Farm fire control.- For second year rural fire-control program proved effective. Fire-control groups are organized in every community in State. Season has not seen large number of fires, but in several communities value of organization was shown by effective control work. Educational campaign on fire prevention has also helped to reduce number of farm fires. In wheat belt, control equipment has been installed on many trucks and combines. In several counties, meetings of community control units were held to check on organization and control plans.

Home economics.- War emergency work occupies much of the time of home demonstration agents. In all counties having a home demonstration agent, she is chairman of committee for rationing pressure cookers. Work on food preservation took prominent place. In one county, series of exhibits on food preservation was prepared for store windows. In another county 2-day training school for home economics graduates was held, and women taught held food-preservation meetings throughout county. In four counties vocational education workers were assisted in establishing community canning centers.

During July home-economics workers and project leaders held 483 meetings attended by 22,274. Demonstrational work on food preservation was carried on in six counties that do not have home demonstration agents.

Market review abstracts.- Plan worked out for supplying county extension agents with market review abstracts on "cash crop products" and on "animal products and feeds." These reviews are designed to give county workers current authentic market situations on Oregon products.

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